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# State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
DIVISION OF OIL, GAS AND MINING

355 West North Temple  
3 Triad Center, Suite 350  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84180-1203  
801-538-5340

*general case*  
0004

September 23, 1988

Mr. Lester Scholl  
2491 Valley View Avenue  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84117  
*277-1163*

Dear Mr. Scholl:

I am responding to your telephone call requesting information on placer mining and land ownership/claim status in Utah.

The Division of Oil, Gas and Mining (DOGM) regulates the permitting of mining operations within the state. Placer mining is permitted by DOGM. It is also regulated by the appropriate federal land managing agency, Bureau of Land Management and/or U.S. Forest Services, if the placer claim is located on federal land.

In Utah, land ownership is principally of 3 types: State land, Federal land, and private or "patented" land. The surface and mineral ownership may be of one type or any combination of these 3 categories.

State lands are designated as "school sections". Typically four sections in each township and range (sections 2, 16, 32 & 36) are designated state sections. Mineral rights on state sections are granted by mineral lease from the Utah Division of State Lands & Forestry.

Mining claims and mineral leases on federal lands are administered by the BLM and USFS. The BLM is responsible for issuance of mineral leases on all federally held lands. The BLM and USFS may also control the surface rights to the federal lands in question. An operator who plans to conduct mineral exploration or mining operations on federally managed lands, must file a Notice of Intention (under 5 acres disturbance) or Plan of Operations (over 5 acres disturbance) with the appropriate federal agency prior to conducting said operations. A similar filing is also required by DOGM on all lands within the state of Utah, regardless of surface or mineral ownership.

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The state BLM office in Salt Lake City maintains records on the status of federal mining claims and land ownership. The Utah Division of State Lands & Forestry have state plat maps which identify state mineral lease ownership and general land ownership. State plat maps may also be inspected in the county recorders office at each county seat in Utah. These maps should indicate current land ownership. Copies of federal mining claim location notices and affidavits of annual assessment work are also filed with the pertinent county recorders office and the BLM.

The Utah Geological and Mineral Survey (UGMS) may be able to provide you with more specific information regarding location of specific types of mineral deposits in Utah. They have many publications and maps which are available to the public for a nominal fee. The United States Geological Survey (USGS), BLM and USFS can also provide you with publications and maps which pertain to specific areas of Utah that you may have an interest in. Addresses and phone numbers for the principle state office of these agencies are attached. I have enclosed some general information regarding the staking of mining claims and annual assessment work requirements. Please feel free to call or write us if we can provide additional information regarding state permitting requirements for mining in Utah.

Sincerely,



Scott Johnson  
Reclamation Engineer

jb  
Attachments  
18/8-9

Intermountain Regional Office  
United States Forest Service  
324 25th Street  
Ogden, Utah 84401  
(801) 625-5158

U.S. Department of Interior  
Geological Survey  
Public Inquiries Office-Maps  
125 South State  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111  
(801) 524-5652

Division of State Lands  
and Forestry  
Mr. Jerry Mansfield  
Mineral Resource Specialist  
3 Triad Center, Suite 400  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108-1204  
(801) 538-5479

Utah State Office  
Bureau of Land Management  
324 South State Street  
Suite 301  
Coordinated Financial Services Bldg.  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84111-2303  
(801) 524-5330

Utah Division of Geological  
and Mineral Survey  
Mr. Bryce Tripp  
606 Blackhawk Way  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108  
(801) 581-6831

U.S. Department of Interior  
Bureau of Mines  
Salt Lake City Research Center  
729 Arapen Drive  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84108  
(801) 524-6112 (Technical Info)